

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 27. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Further, per a telephone conversation with the Examiner on August 24, 2004, applicant hereby incorporates claim 20 into independent claim 15 and claim 31 into independent claim 27.

In the aforementioned discussion, Applicant's representative discussed the incorporation of the radially-offset feature, which is in current dependent claims 20 and 31, into their respective independent claims.

Since the combination of the stepped hanger structure being radially offset from the locking bore, in combination with the set of rings, the hanger assembly including the plunger shaft, and the receiving bore in the manner claimed is not shown or suggested in the cited art, alone or in combination, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner review the case with due consideration of the aforementioned combination.

It is submitted that independent claims 15 and 27 are novel, nonobvious, and patentable. It is further submitted that the claims that depend therefrom, in addition to being patentable due to their dependence from the patentable parent claims, also recite other patentable features. Accordingly, the allowance of these claims is also respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the discussion herein, Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at 408-257-5500.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A. Nguyen
Reg. No. 37899